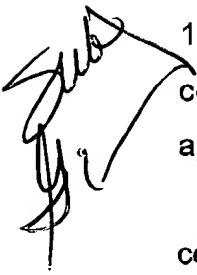


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 1. (Four Times Amended) A method for the preparation of a recombinant polypeptide comprising

a) transforming a host cell with an expression vector comprising:

(1) a nucleic acid sequence capable of regulating transcription in a host cell, operatively linked to

(2) a chimeric nucleic acid sequence encoding a fusion protein, the chimeric nucleic acid sequence comprising (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding a chymosin pro-peptide, linked in reading frame to (b) a nucleic acid sequence heterologous to the pro-peptide and encoding the recombinant polypeptide, wherein the heterologous nucleic acid sequence is located immediately downstream of the nucleic acid sequence encoding the chymosin pro-peptide; operatively linked to

(3) a nucleic acid sequence encoding a termination region functional in said host cell,

b) growing the host cell to produce said fusion protein; and

c) adding a mature form of an autocatalytically maturing aspartic protease, that is capable of cleaving the chymosin pro-peptide, to the fusion protein so that the chymosin pro-peptide is cleaved from the fusion protein to release the recombinant polypeptide.

6. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the chimeric nucleic acid sequence does not include a sequence encoding a mature form of chymosin.

13. (Thrice Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the mature form of the aspartic protease added in step (c) is chymosin.

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14. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the aspartic protease added in step (c) is heterologous to the chymosin pro-peptide.
15. (Amended) The method according to claim 13 wherein the chymosin is added under in vitro conditions.
16. (Amended) The method according to claim 13 wherein the chymosin is added under in vivo conditions.
20. (Twice Amended) A chimeric nucleic acid sequence encoding a fusion protein comprising (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding a chymosin pro-peptide and (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide that is heterologous to the chymosin pro-peptide.
25. (Twice Amended) A chimeric nucleic acid sequence according to claim 20 which does not include a sequence encoding a mature form of chymosin.
41. (Twice Amended) A composition comprising a chimeric nucleic acid sequence encoding a fusion protein, the chimeric nucleic acid sequence comprising (a) a first nucleic acid sequence encoding a chymosin pro-peptide and (b) a second nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide that is heterologous to the chymosin pro-peptide.
42. (Twice Amended) A food composition comprising a chimeric nucleic acid sequence encoding a fusion protein, the chimeric nucleic acid sequence comprising (a) a first nucleic acid sequence encoding a chymosin pro-peptide and (b) a second

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nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide that is heterologous to the chymosin pro-peptide.

44. (Twice Amended) A composition according to claim 41 wherein said chimeric nucleic acid sequence does not include a sequence encoding a mature form of chymosin.

Please delete claim 23.